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## Quake off Cyprus rocks country

DAVID RUDGE

A STRONG earthquake off Cyprus yesterday rocked Israel from Eilat to Rosh Hanikra, causing some minor damage but no injuries.

The quake, which struck here at 3:12 p.m., was also felt in neighboring countries.

The seismology division of the National Infrastructure Ministry's Geophysical Institute reported that the quake measured 6.1 on the Richter scale.

Experts said the epicenter was in the Mediterranean, about 100 km southwest of Cyprus and about 300 km off the coast.

Police were inundated with calls from anxious residents, who reported that furniture had moved and buildings shook. The effects were particularly noticeable in the upper stories of high-rise buildings, where some residents reported that items had fallen from walls and tables.

National Infrastructure Ministry spokesman Ra'anan Gissin said there had been no reports of any serious damage or injuries.

"There were a few reports of plaster coming off walls and doors and windows being rattled, and in a few cases items were broken, but nothing more serious than that," he said.

"The earthquake that struck Eilat last November measured 6.4 on the Richter scale, and its effects were worse because it was closer and not as deep as this one."

The effects in Cyprus and Egypt, however, were more serious, with reports of casualties and some fairly extensive damage. One person was reported to have died in Egypt and five people were said to have been injured in Cyprus.

Dr. Yair Rothstein, director of the Geophysical Institute, said the area in question is susceptible to earthquakes because it is on the northern border of the African plate, which is below the level of the Euro-Asian plate. The two plates are always moving imperceptibly, causing earthquakes. "There have been several quakes in this area since a big one in 1961, including several small ones this year," he said. "We expect several aftershocks and have already recorded some, but they are relatively minor."

## Mordechai: PA must coordinate on infrastructure changes in Hebron

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and DAVID MAKOVSKY

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday that Israel needs to maintain its freedom of action to foil potential terrorist incidents in Hebron. He also made clear that he does not want the Palestinians to act unilaterally in changing the infrastructure in Jewish areas of the city.

Under Oslo 2, Israel maintains security control over 20 percent of the city, but the Palestinians retain civilian control over the entire city.

"The main thing which guides us is that we have the authority and the military capability to operate during alerts and incidents and following incidents so that we can simply prevent dangers," Mordechai said.

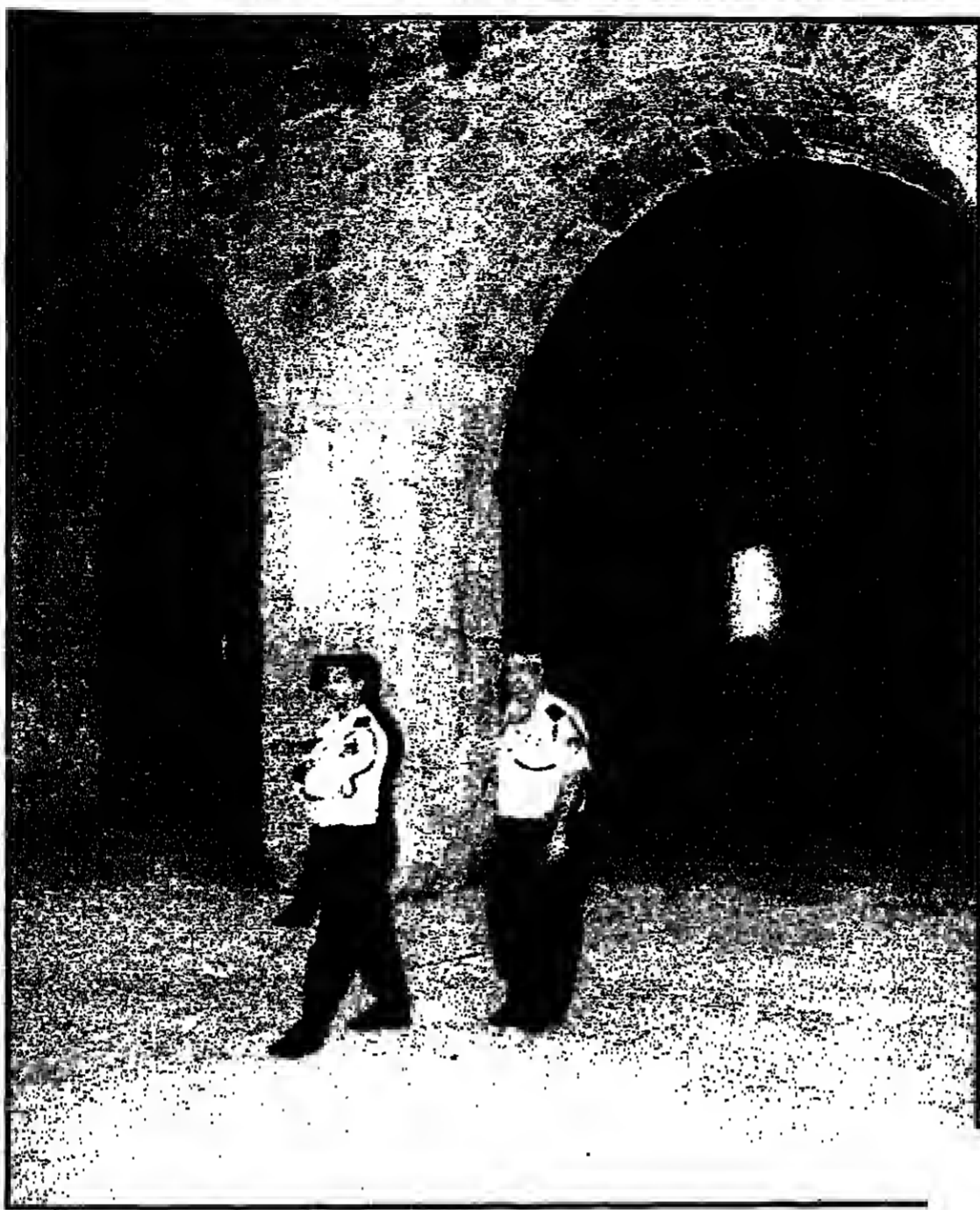
"We want all matters of building and changes in the infrastructure in the second [of the city] that falls under our security responsibility done in coordination with us. If there isn't coordination, it could come to conflicts," Mordechai said.

Mordechai made the statements in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, the full text of which will appear in tomorrow's paper.

## Marzook loses bid to stop US extradition

NEW YORK (Reuters) - A federal judge refused to stop the extradition of a Hamas political leader who is to be returned to Israel on charges of murder and other violent acts.

Mousa Mohammed Abu Marzook's extradition will not be immediate because he can appeal the ruling. His lawyer could not be reached for comment.



Eli Assaf (right), the commander of the police post on the Temple Mount, visits Solomon's Stables yesterday along with other police officers. (Chaled Z)

## Government allows Wakf to open Solomon's Stables for Moslem worshipers

BILL HUTMAN

THE government will allow Solomon's Stables on the Temple Mount to be opened to Moslem worshipers, despite allegations that renovations nearly completed there by the Wakf were illegal and damaged antiquities, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday.

"The Wakf received permission to renovate last year, because the rains during [the last] Ramadan created a need for a dry place to pray," Kahalani said. "The permission granted then remains in effect," he said, and the government will likely make it permanent.

The site, known to Moslems as the Marawani prayer area, has been the center of controversy recently, after the Jerusalem Municipality in August obtained a court order for the Wakf to halt renovations, on grounds they were being done without a permit.

The municipality has since reconsidered its stand, and city building inspectors say the work being done by the Wakf apparently falls within that allowed without a permit.

Government officials also have argued in recent weeks that the controversial opening of the Hasmonean Tunnel exit, just outside the Temple Mount, was done as part of deal in which the Wakf would not protest the move, in exchange for being able to use Solomon's Stables.

Yesterday, Wakf Director Adnan Husseini reiterated the Wakf's position that there was no

agreement "let down the Jewish people" by allowing the opening, continuing to uphold the longstanding ban on Jews praying there.

"We will continue to fight government's policy on Temple Mount, but in a public, peaceful manner. All the talk about violence on our side is rubbish," Etzioon said. Seven Vekayam members were detained yesterday afternoon by police when they tried to force their way onto the Temple Mount.

Gideon Avni, head of Antiquities Authority's Jerusalem District, said the Wakf had carried out this year, with the help of contributions from wealthy Moslems and volunteer Palestinian laborers, according to Husseini.

"The work is nearly finished, and then it might take a day or two to clean things up. We may open on Sunday, or soon after," Husseini said. The Higher Moslem Council is scheduled to meet today, to decide how to mark the opening of the site.

"We want to keep things quiet, so that the Jewish extremists won't make trouble," Husseini said. He was referring to reports Jewish extremists, who have branded the move "the opening of the third mosque on the Temple Mount," might try to prevent the opening.

Yehuda Etzioon, whose group Hai Vekayam has been leading the fight against the Wakf's control of the Temple Mount, said the gov-

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## Jordan-Israel relations in state of 'deterioration'

DAVID MAKOVSKY

ISRAELI-Jordanian relations are in a state of "deterioration" and cannot be mended until Israel immediately implements the Oslo Accords and avoids unilateral actions in Jerusalem which Amman believes affect Jordanian custodianship over Moslem shrines there, Jordanian Ambassador Omar Rifai said last night.

Rifai, who until now has studiously avoided criticizing the Netanyahu government, spoke after a series of attacks in recent days by King Hussein concerning the government's "arrogance" when it came to the peace process. Hussein also wondered whether Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is leading the region to war.

It remains unclear whether Netanyahu, who in the past has repeatedly expressed pride in his relationship with the monarch, will meet with Hussein in the coming days to attempt to address the problems, or whether the premier will dispatch an envoy.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post* last night, Rifai said, "We have noted a serious deterioration in our bilateral relationship with Israel, which is at least partly due to a deterioration in the whole Arab-Israeli relationship."

anniversary of their peace treaty later this month, Rifai declared, "As we approach the second anniversary, the Israel-Jordanian relationship is not where it should be and not where it was since [the treaty] was signed."

Rifai made clear that Israel cannot isolate ties with Jordan from an overall deterioration in its ties with all the Arabs.

"The whole Arab-Israeli relationship is in crisis because we have gone off track on the peace process," he said. "We are not where we should be in terms of achieving the goal we all aspire to, which is a comprehensive regional peace with security."

"We have gotten off-track because there seems to be an intransigence in the negotiating process at all levels, from Hebron to the closing off of the areas, settlements, unilateral actions in Jerusalem, and the list can go on."

"The atmosphere on the peace front as a whole has affected the Israeli-Jordanian relationship. While each track was separate in its own right, there is an interdependence between tracks."

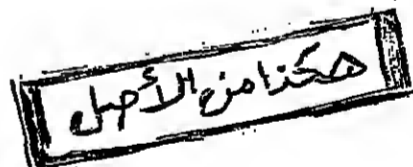
perceives to be the premier's insensitivity in not informing Hussein in advance about the opening of the Hasmonean Tunnel exit, especially since the premier had dispatched a top adviser, Dore Gold, to brief the king.

While Netanyahu has reiterated that the tunnel is 250 meters away from any Moslem holy place, Rifai said Jordan sees such "unilateral" action as undermining the provision of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, which makes clear that Amman has a special role in administering the holy places.

"By not notifying us about the tunnel and acting unilaterally in Arab East Jerusalem, we see this is not in accordance with the peace treaty," Rifai said.

More reported details of Hussein's attack on Netanyahu at last week's private White House luncheon hosted by President Bill Clinton emerged yesterday.

According to *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman, Hussein said Netanyahu had expended goodwill and had an "arrogance of power." Hussein reportedly said the lack of success of the Washington summit was a "success for extremists and war-



## Little headway in Hebron talks as new subcommittees are formed

JON IMMANUEL

THE Israeli-Palestinian steering committee on the Oslo Accords meeting at Erez broke up into security and civil affairs subcommittees yesterday, after talks on Hebron redeployment made little headway. The economic subcommittee is to meet today.

By breaking up into smaller committees it was hoped to make progress on some issues, including aspects of the Hebron redeployment, by focusing on technical details and not the political agreement as a whole.

The security subcommittee, under Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, head of the IDF Planning Branch, and West Bank Preventive Security Chief Col. Jibril Rajoub, specifically discussed security in Hebron, military sources said.

A pared-down steering committee met briefly with US peace process coordinator Dennis Ross.

Saeb Erekat, head of the Palestinian steering committee team, said that as far as Hebron is concerned "our position is that we have a Palestinian-Israeli document and the Israeli side is trying to change it." Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser

Arafat ordered no compromises on the agreement, and Erekat said on Palestine Radio that if Israel did not agree finally to implement the accord without changes, the PA would seek international arbitration.

Ross also met with Arafat in his Gaza office yesterday. This followed Palestinian complaints that the Americans were not taking an active enough role in the talks. Afterwards, Ross told reporters: "I think we have to be patient."

Heading the civil affairs subcommittee are government coordinator in the territories Maj.-Gen. Oren Shabor and PA Civil Affairs Minister Jamil Tarifi. Among the issues they began discussing are the transfer of some 30 untransferred areas of civil authority in Hebron, as well as the deployment of 400 Palestinian inspectors in the area to remain under IDF control.

Shabor said that 4,000 more workers, in addition to 10,000 authorized Tuesday, would be allowed into Israel, to help with the fruit har-

vest. Israel will also allow the entry of 150 merchants and 50 international organization workers.

The Palestinians requested more port rights in Ashdod and Haifa and complained of house demolitions in Area C, which is under Israeli control.

In Kalkiya, the standing joint security committee under Brig.-Gen. Herzl Getz and Brig.-Gen. Ziad Arata, which meets to discuss ongoing security problems, met to discuss the current security situation after last month's riots.

Illustrating the new complications that have arisen, a request to let Palestinian policemen serving in the West Bank visit their relatives in Gaza was vetoed because of the failure of the PA to take measures against policemen responsible for shooting at IDF soldiers. The matter is further complicated by the fact that joint patrols in the West Bank are not functioning and the policemen would have to be accompanied by soldiers.

The Palestinian Council met in Ramallah yesterday to discuss the political situation. Arafat is to fly there by helicopter today to participate in the discussions.

finding solutions, although at the same time we are prepared for any possibilities. We don't have any differences of opinion with Jordan and I call on King Hussein to continue the territories has calmed since it was decided to continue the negotiations. He stressed, however, that under the surface the situation is very tense and the IDF must remain on full alert.

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# PM, Labor reject unity government

"THERE have been no contacts about establishing a national unity government. Not even one word. I don't see the possibility," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly told National Religious Party MKs yesterday. He noted the government hopes to reach a broad national consensus before the final-status talks with the Palestinians. He said the NRP and Likud could reach a consensus, but attacked the Labor Party as "the ideological appendix of Meretz."

"They are prepared, with insufferable ease, to give [the Palestinians] a state... This means they will get all the jurisdiction we are not prepared for them to have," Netanyahu said.

"Even if there were a broad consensus [on the Palestinian issue], there would be questions like the Golan Heights, where [they're prepared] to give up everything," he said.

"Our aim must be to be as one. To approach the final-status talks with a consensus as to the best agreement and not deal with [a national unity government]. I'm sure we

LIAT COLLINS and MICHAL YUDELMAN

can get the consent of 70 percent of the public. A majority of the public will support our plan because it's fair."

Labor also dismissed rumors of the possibility of a unity government, and accused the Prime Minister's Office of spreading them to "neutralize Labor's sharp criticism of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's failures."

Party secretary-general Nissim Zvilli called the rumors "an exercise for beginners. It's a political manipulation on the part of the Prime Minister's Office, intended to signal to those who oppose the peace process and the redeployment in Hebron to be careful, because there is another option. Also, Netanyahu was deeply hurt by MK Shimon Peres's harsh critical speech in the Knesset and Labor's attacks. He's saying to them: 'Get off my back, you may find yourselves part of this government.'"

Peres was surprised to hear of the

so-called contacts he has had with Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef to explore the possibility of a unity government, and denied he had met with Yosef.

"I didn't even see him," he said. "I'm not interested in rumors and gossip. I'm not interested in being a member of any government. What interests me is the peace process."

Peres proposed establishing an inquiry commission to probe the circumstances of the severe escalation in the territories.

"It is unthinkable that a prime minister, who pretends to be the prime minister of the entire nation, should spend all his time attacking the opposition. Are we his enemies? What did he do as head of opposition? But if he's serious about it, I'm all in favor of setting up an inquiry commission into the causes of the escalation, not only with arms, but with words, too," he said.

Peres proposed postponing the party's leadership election, scheduled for next year, to 1998. He urged the party to put aside all internal conflicts for at least 18 months and concentrate on efforts to change the government's policy.

# NRP to Netanyahu: Retain military control of Hebron

NATIONAL Religious Party MKs suggested retaining Israeli military control in all of Hebron, as well as civil control over the city's Jewish enclave, during a meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday.

They complained that under the current agreement, after the IDF redeployment, the Jewish residents of the city would be dependent on the Palestinian Authority for their daily needs.

"We are aware of attempts to strangle the [Jewish] settlement in

LIAT COLLINS

He did not, however, commit himself to Shaul Yahalom's demand that there be no connection between the Jewish settlement and the PA.

Yahalom said he feared the PA would cut water and electricity to the Jewish residents "a thousand times a day," to which Netanyahu reportedly replied: "Then we will cut supplies to Hebron 1,000 times."

When Avner Shaki raised the possibility of the PA declaring a Palestinian state, Netanyahu

fact, and the government will have to maneuver within them.

"Because of the shooting [by Palestinian policemen], we can demand some defensive adjustments," he said.

He said the Hasmonean Tunnel exit would remain open and Joseph's Tomb, like Rachel's Tomb, would be repaired and reopened.

"We won't let Hebron become a Joseph's Tomb. We don't close or withdraw from sites," he said.

The NRP MKs and Netanyahu



US peace talks envoy Dennis Ross meets for talks yesterday in Jerusalem with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

# Mordechai to visit US next week

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is to pay his first working visit to the US next week.

As Secretary of Defense William Perry's guest, Mordechai is to meet with top Pentagon officials and military commanders.

Mordechai is also to meet with senators, congressmen, State Department officials, and National Security Adviser Anthony Lake.

Mordechai will also visit Fort Hood in Texas, where he will be given a display on the battlefield of the future. He is also to visit the Air Command Center in Colorado.

One of his aims is to enhance strategic ties with the US and ensure that the \$1.8 billion in military aid is not cut.

In a related matter, Mordechai met yesterday with US peace process coordinator Dennis Ross, who has been participating in the Israeli-Palestinian talks at Erez.

Mordechai, the officials said, clarified that Israel's participation in the talks stems from a desire to advance the negotiations and bridge gaps so solutions can be found.

# We support Hebron pullout, Third Way tells PM

LIAT COLLINS

THIRD Way MKs and executive members yesterday told Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that they support implementing the redeployment in Hebron, while preserving the security of Jewish residents of the city, but hope to renew the settlement program.

According to party sources, Netanyahu listened with interest as MK Alex Lubotsky explained his plan of proceeding with "par-

tial permanent arrangements."

This entails linking the three redeployments still due under Oslo 2, whose scope has yet to be determined, with permanent arrangements, so that for every section handed over to the Palestinian Authority, Israel would annex a similar area.

"It's like dealing out cards, five

to you and five to me," Lubotsky told reporters.

The Third Way is also demanding that the Hebron redeployment go ahead, because without it there can be no program to boost settlements. The party is particularly interested in strengthening the Greater Jerusalem area, the Jordan Valley, Gush Etzion, the Golan Heights,

the south Hebron Hills, and western Samaria, including Ariel.

The Third Way reportedly offered to support the government on the Hebron redeployment in the face of some right-wing resistance within the cabinet.

The party demanded the government allow it to submit its bill demanding a special Knesset and referendum majority to approve any territorial concessions.

# Groups demand inquiry commission for recent violence

HERB KEINON

GROUP of organizations used to the Oslo accords called yesterday for a commission of inquiry into the events leading up to and including the violence of weeks ago, but stopped short of lining up for a protest against the Netanyahu government.

Reserve colonel Moshe Leshem, head of a group called Gamla Shall a Fall Again, said at a Jerusalem press conference that just as military failures in the past have been investigated, so should the battles of weeks ago that left 15 IDF soldiers dead.

"We have the right to know exactly what happened, who gave what orders, and why did you give them?" Leshem said the committee should investigate who decided on type of weaponry to give the Palestinians; whether anyone ordered the military establishment to do this; what was the decision-making process involved; and whether the IDF trained elite

Palestinian units in the use of these weapons.

"It was outrageous that they provided the Palestinians with weapons, they also trained them and gave our soldiers orders which in effect turned them into sitting ducks in a shooting gallery," Leshem said.

Elyakim Ha'etzi, head of the Committee for the Abolition of the Autonomy, said that the committee of inquiry should also investigate the political establishment. He said that just as the Kahan Commission set up in 1983 to investigate the Sabra and Shatila massacres found that Ariel Sharon should not serve as defense minister, so this committee should disqualify Shimon Peres and Yossi Beilin from ever again holding public office.

A number of speakers called on the IDF General Staff to resign. Reserve colonel Gideon Altshuler, of Professors for a Strong Israel, charged that the army has been "emasculated," and that the Oslo accords have made the IDF soft.

# Knesset rejects inquiry into Palestinian rioting

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset yesterday rejected a motion by MK Ophir Pines (Labor) to establish a parliamentary commission of inquiry into the cause of the Palestinian rioting two weeks ago.

The proposal was removed from the agenda by a vote of 54-42 after an intense debate marked by heckling and noisy asides.

Pines demanded an inquiry into the decision-making process preceding the opening of the Hasmonean Tunnel exit; the lack of involvement by security establishment; the manner in which the defense forces handled the rioting; and its fatal results.

Pines used a particularly emotional tone in his address, calling on the prime minister to look into the eyes of the bereaved families and tell them what their sons had died for. "Did they fall for a righteous principle? For something which serves the interests of the state? They fell for nothing," Pines charged.

Likud MKs constantly responded: "It's because you gave them guns."

Pines accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of being irresponsible, hasty, arrogant and removed from reality.

MK Zvi Handal (National Religious Party) and Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) accused Pines of incitement and mobilizing the international media against Israel.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, the government's liaison to the Knesset, asked for the proposal to be removed from the agenda.

He said the Left was trying "to avoid having to cope with what it had bequeathed us." The opposition is simply finding it difficult to cope with having lost the elections, he added.

Coalition chairman Michael Eitan and Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen spent the debate trying to muster the largest turnout possible for the vote. Netanyahu, Foreign Minister David Levy and several other ministers were pulled out of their offices for the poll.

Labor Party leader Shimon Peres was not present.

# PA-Israeli cooperation key to opening of Solomon's Stables to Moslems

BACKGROUND BILL HUTMAN

ALLOWING the Hasmonean tunnel blow-up it may be hard to believe, but in many instances, Palestinian and Israeli officials in Jerusalem are in close cooperation, and the planned opening of Solomon's Stables to Moslem worshippers is a good example.

In the case of Solomon's Stables, cooperation was between the Wakf, the Moslem religious authority in charges of the Temple Mount mosques, and Israeli officials all the way up to the prime minister.

Towards the end of last year, the Internal Security Ministry was informed by Wakf officials of their plans to renovate the underground vaults of Solomon's Stables, which they have long seen as an extension of Al-Aksa Mosque, to provide additional covered area for Moslem worshippers.

The Wakf officials said the covered area was needed for worshippers to pray under during the crowded Ramadan holiday period, that most recently fell during the rainy winter months of January and February.

Sources involved said the issue was brought to the attention of prime minister Shimon Peres, who

both gave his approval for Solomon's Stables to be opened, and for renovations to be carried on the dirt floors and leaky roofs of the giant, vaulted chambers.

In January, Moshe Sassoon, senior advisor to then internal security minister Moshe Shahal, and Jerusalem Police Chief Arye Amit met several city Moslem leaders, including Wakf Director Adnan Hussein, and Moslem Higher Council member Mohammed Hussein, to pass on the government's approval.

The approval, however, was conditioned on the Wakf agreeing to the Antiquities Authority officials being allowed to periodically visit the site, to ensure no damage was being done. The Moslem leaders agreed.

Since then, about once a week an Antiquities Authority official, in most cases the Jerusalem District head, Gideon Avni, has come to see what work was being done. Avni was always treated well by Wakf officials, and after each visit compiled a report on

progress on the work.

Old City police commander David Givati also regularly visited the site, and met with Wakf officials.

The Antiquities Authority's reports on the Solomon's Stables renovation were periodically forwarded to Attorney-General Michael Beo-Yair, who would then forward them to the ministerial committee on holy sites.

The procedure was described by officials involved as routine, as the committee, and not the authority, had the final say on the work being carried out by the Wakf. Until this week, all the reports presented by authority stated the work was not damaging the site.

On Tuesday, Avni and Givati together visited Solomon's Stables, only to discover Palestinian workers had drilled holes into Crusader period walls and pillars, and a report to this effect was sent to Beo-Yair.

Despite the overall cooperation, relations were sometimes tense. Wakf officials always publicly

insisted Israel had no say on the work being done at Solomon's Stables, and the Israeli officials, understanding the sensitivity of the matter, also kept their role secret.

The Wakf tried to prevent Avni and Givati from entering on Tuesday, on grounds the mount was closed to visitors, because the mourning period continued for three Palestinians killed there during riots two weeks ago, and allowed them in only after they insisted.

Israeli sources that worked with the Wakf over the past year said the municipality's filing for an order in August to stop work at Solomon's Stables only served to heighten tensions and mistrust, and eventually proved to be off the mark, as the work was found to be legal.

According to the sources, there will be talks with the Wakf in the coming days to see how the damage caused by the recent drilling can be minimized. Otherwise, it appears that a year of close cooperation between Israeli and Moslem officials will lead to the site's opening next week, the sources said.

wanted to visit the Church of the Nativity and other Christian holy places in Bethlehem yesterday had to walk the almost three kilometers between Rachel's Tomb and Manger Square.

The security forces have barred Israelis from entering Bethlehem, which is in Area A, under Palestinian control. Until yesterday, the Palestinians had been providing buses for groups of foreign pilgrims, whose Israeli drivers and guides waited for them at Rachel's Tomb.

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, who is also the Palestinian Authority's Tourism Minister, was quoted on Israel Radio as saying he had decided not to continue providing the buses just to help the Israeli tourism industry, but he later told The

Jerusalem Post that the Palestinians simply did not have enough buses to carry all the visitors who wanted to enter the city.

Freij criticized the army's restrictions, saying that Bethlehem is perfectly safe for Israelis. He added that eight Israeli buses had entered the town on Tuesday, without incident. If the tourists could not visit Bethlehem, he added, they would not want to come to Israel.

He added that in one case, he had seen an elderly woman making her way on foot to the church, which marks the birthplace of Jesus.

"I brought her in my car," Freij said.

Meanwhile, Israeli officials denied allegations by the Tour Guides

# Weizman to visit Egypt next week

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman will make a one-day trip to Cairo on Monday, Beit Hanassi announced yesterday.

Weizman met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday to brief him on his talks Tuesday with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday extended a formal invitation to Weizman to visit the Egyptian capital for talks.

Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon is also expected to visit Cairo next week, Channel 1 reported.

Batsheva Tsur

# SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Members of the International Board of Trustees of the Israel Tereza Center, including the Chair, Mr. Ed Reicin and his wife Leah, of Skokie, Illinois, to attend meetings of the Board of Trustees and the 1996 Joyce Eisenberg Israel Open.

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הקדמה מן האלטר

# The Republic of China Celebrates 85th Birthday



The Double Tenth National Day Celebration in front of the Presidential Office (top)



President Lee Teng-hui waves in appreciation to the crowd attending National Day Celebration (right)

If you like extravagant fireworks displays, colorful parades and historical occasions, then today is a good day to be in Taiwan. That's because the Republic of China is celebrating its 85th anniversary of National Day, called the Double Tenth celebration.

On October 10, 1911, Dr. Sun Yat-sen and his followers rose up in the city of Wuchang to overthrow the Ching dynasty and establish the Republic of China. Every year, on the tenth day of the tenth month of the year, the people of the ROC commemorate the Wuchang

Uprising. Aside from parades and fireworks around the island on Double Tenth day, virtually all buildings, public squares and streets are decorated for the occasion. It is customary for thousands of overseas Chinese to return to Taiwan on this day and pay homage to the Republic of China.

### Democratization Promotes Peace and Regional Stability

It was only six months ago that the ROC's citizens went to the polls and cast ballots for the first popularly elected head of State in Chinese history. President Lee Teng-hui won the four-way race with 54% of the popular vote. The election announced to the world the completion of the Republic of China's transition to democracy.

Two months later, on May 20, 1996, the newly elected President announced in his inaugural address that he was willing to make a "journey of peace" to mainland China to show his commitment to peaceful relations between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits.

Kao Koong-lian, Vice Chairman of the ROC Mainland Affairs Council, said that the ROC government has always emphasized three principles in handling Taiwan-mainland relations: mutual respect; reason and peace; and equality and pragmatism. He also said that Peking shouldn't set a precondition that negotiations must be conducted only under its version of the one-China principle. The talks should be resumed, he said, on the basis of a bilateral consensus reached in 1992 that said

that each side could maintain its own interpretation of the one-China concept. Meanwhile in Hong Kong, Tang Shubei, Vice Chairman of the Mainland's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits said that negotiations over political issues was a priority for the intermediary agencies.

Democratization in the ROC has brought self-assurance and self-confidence as global popular support increases. The Republic of China is determined to attain international recognition: they have their sights set on a seat in the United Nations. Foreign Minister John Chang said last June: "We will continue to push for participation in U.N. activities, but we have no intention to irk Peking with our diplomatic initiatives." He added: "Entering the United Nations is our long-term goal but not our priority."

Though the ROC has never formally "applied" to enter the United Nations, the ROC is trying to draw international attention to the fact that the Taiwan area, with a population of 21 million and economic and political success, has no voice in the world body.

Chang also said that Taipei should not and will not enter into unification talks with Peking unless the two sides are given equal international status.

The ROC government is convinced that its democratization will eventually contribute significantly to China's peaceful reunification and to stability in the Asia-Pacific region. In its 85 years since the revolution, it certainly has come a long way towards that goal.

## A More Competitive Taiwan Set for Greater Global Prominence

With a democratic system now firmly established, the ROC is utilizing Taiwan's solid economic base and stable democratic development to raise national competitiveness and transform the island into an Asia-Pacific Regional Operations Center by the early 21st century. This will better integrate the Republic of China into the regional and world economy and the international community. Steps have been taken to further open and globalize Taiwan's economy through spurring the flow of

Taiwan Places Fourth among 12 Asian Economies in evaluations of economic and political risk, advancing one notch from last year, according to a highly respected Hong Kong consultancy. The annual report, by Political and Economic Risk Consultancy Ltd. (PERC), said Singapore had the least business risk, with a 2.53 rating, followed by Japan's 2.85 and Hong Kong's 2.91. Taiwan's fourth place rating was put at 3.9. The same report projected Taiwan's 1996

economic growth at 6.1 percent and Foreign exchange reserves at US\$96 billion. The report predicted Taiwan exports for the year would total US\$124 billion and said US imports would amount to US\$108.5 billion. Much government effort has been applied to economic liberalization, internationalization and privatization of state-owned enterprises, the PERC noted. Taiwan did see improvements in the evaluations of

government's successful track record, future rankings are likely to be even higher. Taiwan is set to join the top ranks of competitive economies worldwide and become even more tightly integrated into the international community in the 21st century. The ROC is the world's fourteenth largest trading nation and seventeenth largest investor nation. They are a country whose GNP stands at US\$264.7 billion, the eighteenth highest in the world. Their per capita income ranks 25th at US\$12,490. The ROC is already an active member of the international community, engaging in economic, trade and cultural relations with countries around the globe. Recently, it has also accomplished a series of strikingly peaceful democratic reforms. The ROC has the sincere desire to do all it can for the international community. For example, as of November 1995, the ROC had pledged to provide loans totaling US\$489 million to 16 nations through its international Economic Cooperation and Development fund. And also as of March 1996, the ROC had already given US\$129 million to over 60 nations through its International Humanitarian and Relief Fund.

In terms of economic partnership, political experience and humanitarian aid, the ROC has much to offer the world.



investment, industry, individuals and information. The ROC government has relaxed controls on capital movement and has opened the remaining areas of business previously closed to foreign investors. It has also expanded intellectual property rights protection and streamlined procedures for employing foreign nationals.

Six operations centers are planned: manufacturing, sea transportation, air transportation, finance, telecommunications and media. Building upon Taiwan's solid manufacturing base and highly-skilled workforce, twenty to thirty newly planned intelligent industrial parks are to be connected by advanced telecommunications no later than 2005. Capitalizing on Taiwan's optimal central location in the Asia-Pacific, development of a transshipment hub has begun with designating southern Taiwan's Kaohsiung Harbor an offshore shipping center to transship cargo bound for the Chinese mainland. A first step toward an air transport hub is the US\$400 million air freight transport center being built by the US-based UPS at the ROC's CKS International Airport. The Taiwan Stock Exchange has been opened to foreign individuals, and a commodity futures exchange bill awaits passage. The cellular telecommunications spectrum and value-added network services have been released to the private sector, and foreign investment in telecommunications services is being liberalized. Taiwan will host high-tech media parks for Chinese-language movie and television program production and post-production.

its labor quality and cost, bureaucratic system, inward investment regulations, intellectual property rights and protection and labor disputes, the comprehensive report said. Taiwan ranked third in economic dynamics, up three notches from last year's report, behind only Singapore and South Korea. The category took into account gross domestic product growth rate, inflation, foreign exchange fluctuations, export and import growth and foreign debts.

The 1995 World Competitiveness Report by the International Institute of Development Management and World Economic Forum placed Taiwan 11th and 8th worldwide, respectively. In the 1995 Business Risk Assessment Report, Taiwan received the third highest recommendation for profit opportunity. Given the ROC

## Taiwan, the World's Third Largest Computer Products Manufacturer

Check out the label on your computer parts and products and more often than not you will see the words: "Made in Taiwan." Taiwan now ranks as the world's third largest computer products supplier after the United States and Japan, having exported US\$21.31 billion worth of information-related products during the first 11 months of 1995. This does not include the production of integrated circuits (IC), which led the island's exports in 1995.

Over half of the exported products were hardware. Taiwan is now the world's largest supplier of monitors, motherboards, keyboards, computer mice and scanners. CD-ROM drives appear to be the information-product posting the largest growth in 1995. The value of these products totaled US\$305 million.

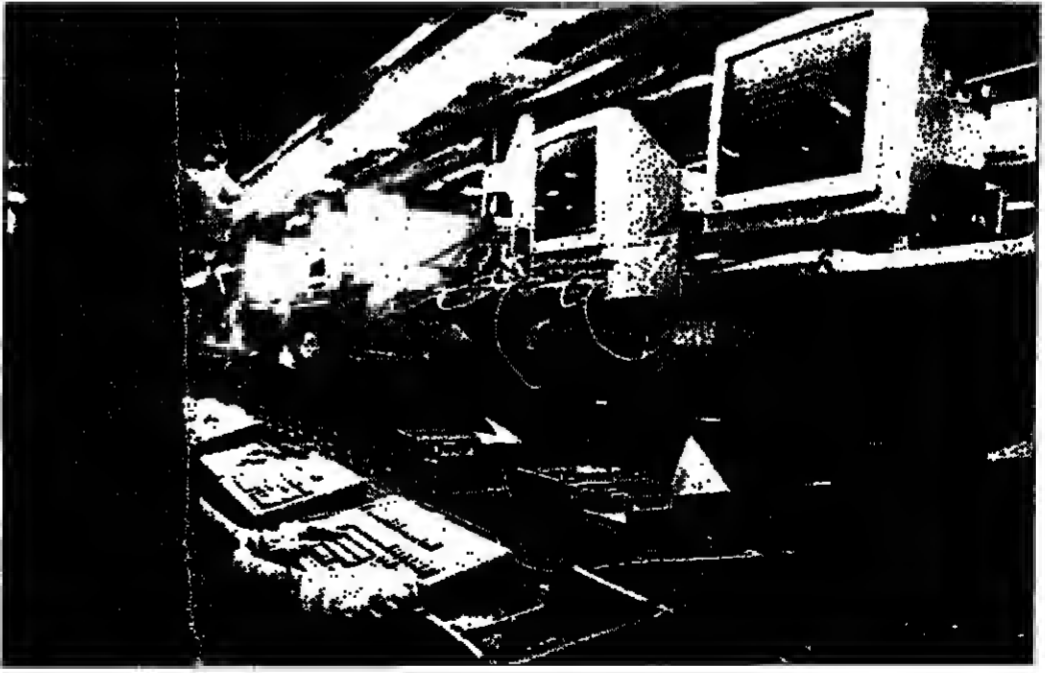
Many of the world's top ten PC vendors, such as Compaq, Apple, Hewlett Packard, Packard Bell, NEC and Dell, are increasing their orders with Taiwan. Approximately 70 to 85 percent of the monitors those vendors required are purchased from the island. Taiwan-made monitors, the largest category of information-related products, captured 57 percent of the world market.

All Taiwan's success in computers can be attributed to the expansion of production scale in firms' overseas establishments. In order to benefit from cheaper production costs, many Taiwan computer firms have moved lower value-added production lines overseas. The trend of moving labor-intensive lines offshore has become well-established in Taiwan's information industry, with headquarters based in Taiwan focusing on R&D, design and corporate operations.

In recent years, a significant number of local manufacturers have moved into the high-tech fabrication of IC wafers used in memory chips. Taiwan now ranks as the sixth largest producer of semi-conductors in the world. Industry insiders predict that Taiwan's semiconductor sector will grow at an annual rate of between 30 to 40 percent over the next five years. It is expected that, by the year 2000, Taiwan will

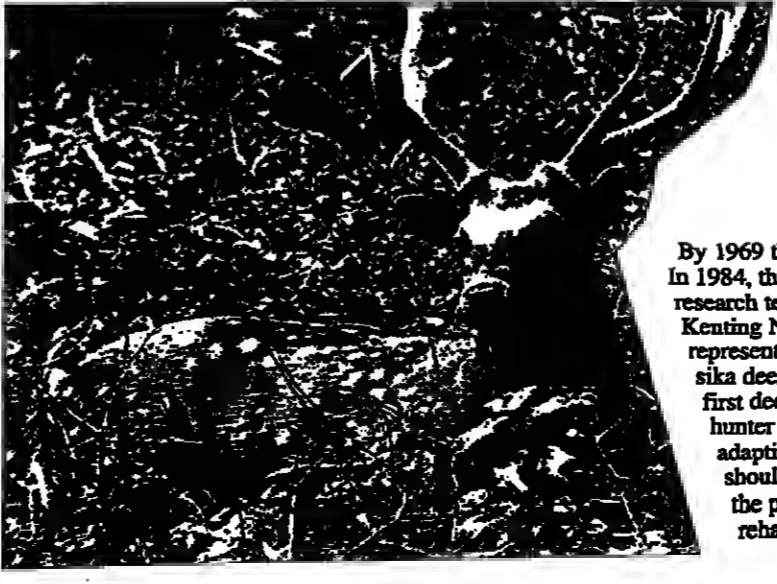
be the world fourth largest semiconductor producer after the United States, Japan and Korea.

With vigorous development of information-related and IC sectors, the island's Hsinchu Science-based Industrial Park has been named "Silicon Valley" in Taiwan. In order to facilitate the development of high-tech industries, two other Science parks - Yunlin and Tainan - are now under construction. At this rate of expansion in the computer field, the ROC (Republic of China) may soon be called "The Republic of Computers!"



### Taiwan on the Internet:

- General Information - Government Information Office: <http://www.gio.gov.tw>
- Business and investment information - Ministry of Economic Affairs: <http://www.moea.gov.tw>
- Business Opportunities - China External Trade Development Council: <http://www.tptaiwan.org.tw>



## Renewing Taiwan's Wildlife

The Council of Agriculture sponsors many programs to save Taiwan's endemic wildlife. A good example of this work is the rehabilitation of the Formosan sika deer. Unique to Taiwan, the sika deer once roamed the forests in Taiwan's low and middle elevations. Because of unlimited hunting and land development, the number of deer declined rapidly.

By 1969 the species had been declared officially extinct in the wild. In 1984, the ROC government began a 10-year US \$3.7 million project to propagate sika deer. In 1986, a research team transferred 22 deer reared at the Taipei City Zoo to a 120-hectare propagation zone in Kenting National Park. The project has increased the original group of 22 sika to a herd of 130, representing four generations of deer. Finally, on January 23, 1994, World Freedom Day, ten Formosan sika deer with wireless transmitters were freed, including three males and seven females. They were the first deer to return to their natural surroundings since the last wild deer in Taiwan was killed by a hunter in 1969. The deer will be traced by radio so that park administrators can find out how they are adapting to their new environment. The data gathered will be used in determining how other animals should be released into the wild. Next, the Kenting National Park Headquarters will start to replenish the park's number of muntjac, another small Asian deer. The national park system has successfully rehabilitated several other endangered species.







BUSINESS & FINANCE

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Key Representative Rates
US dollar ... NIS 3.1910 -0.06%
Sterling ... NIS 4.9938 +0.37%
Mark ... NIS 2.0851 -0.23%

INFLATION
MARKET
New York market indexes

NYSE stocks
NYSE ADVANCE/DECLINE
Share movements

Other stock market indexes
FTSE 100
Tokyo Nikkei average

Israeli stocks in US
NYSE / AMEX / NASDAQ / OTC

INFLATION MARKETS
Dollar crossrates (US)
Libor rates
Foreign financial data courtesy of ComnStock Trading Ltd.

Multi-sided trading

Commercial Banks
Industrial
Mortgage Banks & Finance

Trade & Services

Trade & Services
Oil Exploration
PARALLEL LIST
Trade & Services
Property, Building & Agriculture

Two-sided trading

AFTERNOON
MORNING

Two-Sided Index
Maof Index

Oil Exploration

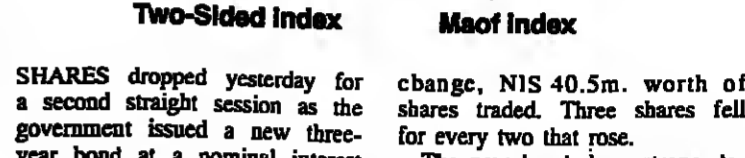
PARALLEL LIST

Trade & Services
Property, Building & Agriculture

Shares drop as government sells new bond

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



SHARES dropped yesterday for a second straight session as the government issued a new three-year bond at a nominal interest rate of 17 percent...

The Two-Sided Index fell 0.64 percent to 185.44, while the Maof Index dropped 0.84% to 194.85.

World Market Roundup

LONDON (Reuters) - European bourses, rattled by a weak performance on Wall Street, closed mixed yesterday despite setting a record-breaking pace earlier this week.

Frankfurt at record

Frankfurt's performance, struggling off a poor overnight showing by Wall Street, marginally eclipsed its earlier closing peak set only two days ago of 2702.64.

Dow drops on profit-taking

NEW YORK (AP) - Blue-chip stocks suffered their worst losses in weeks yesterday as profit-taking on the market's recent exploits intensified, muting enthusiasm over signs of strength in the semiconductor industry.

Wall Street Report

On Monday and Tuesday, the blue-chip average made its first forays past 6,000, but quickly slipped back below.

Paris

PARIS
Air Liquide 778 -18
Alcatel 447 -4.8
Bois de France 746 -7

Frankfurt

Frankfurt
Lufthansa 435 -3.75
Bayer 68.09 -0.21
Continental 14.25 -0.05

Currency Cross Rates
MARK STERLING YEN SFR PFF

Vertical text on the left margin: orists kill in fresh Algeria violence, Nobel physics mistery, World...

Vertical text on the right margin: Shares drop as government sells new bond, Eurobourses mixed, Frankfurt at record, Dow drops on profit-taking, Wall Street Report, Paris, Frankfurt, Currency Cross Rates.







# Man held for plotting to murder wife

RAINE MARCUS

HAIM Afiallo, the 63-year-old insurance broker suspected of plotting to have his wife murdered, was remanded for seven days by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Afiallo, a resident of Herzliya Pituah, is suspected of hiring a Tel Aviv resident to kill his wife. But the would-be assassin, a known criminal whose name is banned from publication, went straight to police and offered to tape Afiallo discussing his plan.

The assassin-turned-police-agent met Afiallo via an intermediary who has not been arrested. Afiallo denied all the allegations and his lawyer, Sassi Gez, argued that he had been "set up" by the agent. Police, however, presented Judge Rachel Greenberg with written documents and transcribed tapes supporting the allegations. The judge ruled that the agent was not an "agent provoca-

teur" who enticed Afiallo to kill his wife, but that the suspect initiated the plot.

According to police, Afiallo was supposed to pay the assassin NIS 100,000 and gave him a down payment of NIS 10,000. Police claim that Afiallo wanted to murder his wife because of a bitter dispute over the division of their assets during divorce proceedings.

Eighteen months ago, the same assassin was hired by private investigator Amir Ben-Asher and former IDF officer Ya'acov Bek to murder senior members of the "Russian mafia" here, but he again turned to police and brought them sufficient evidence to charge and convict the pair. Both Ben-Asher and Bek are serving lengthy prison sentences for the murder plot.

The same man was also allegedly approached by two Rishpon residents, detective Reuven Breiner and Yitzhak Taub, to harm or kill



Haim Afiallo (left) speaks to his lawyer during his remand hearing yesterday. (Dana Shterman/Israel Sun)

Rishpon resident Aharon Ginzberg and his family.

Ginzberg had filed petitions to various courts over alleged unfair treatment and irregularities in Rishpon. Around two months ago,

he and his family were attacked by masked men and his home was bombed with rocks and bottles. He complained to police, who did not take him seriously.

On Tuesday, Breiner and Taub,

based on testimony given by the same assassin, were arrested. The two were remanded yesterday for five days by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court Judge Edna Hongenstein.

# Fictitious marriages on the increase

LIAT COLLINS

THERE are some 250,000 foreign workers here and some 3,000 fictitious marriages a year, Interior Ministry officials told the Knesset Interior Committee yesterday.

Batya Carmon, who heads the ministry's visa department, said there has been "an incredible increase" in the number of fictitious marriages.

Carmon said some 30 requests a day are received from foreigners wanting to marry Israelis. Thirty percent of these are fictitious marriages, Carmon said.

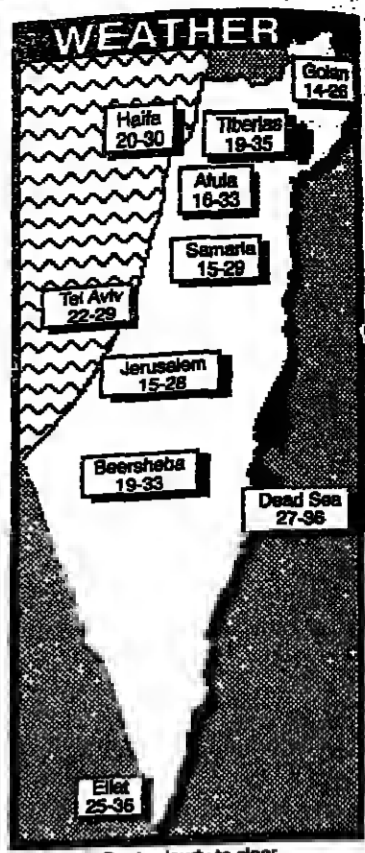
The going rate paid to women for agreeing to fictitious marriages is NIS 2,000, she said, although some women marry the workers as a favor. Carmon said in many cases, the illegal workers had arrived as tourists several years ago, when there was little awareness of the problem. These illegals came from England, Ireland, New Zealand, and Eastern European and African countries.

There is also a problem of workers who change their names abroad or marry abroad or arrive with false documents and claim rights under the Law of Return.

She said the foreign workers are aided by employment agencies that deal in false documents and visas for tourists. She said the police are not acting on complaints that have been filed.

Supt. Monique Goldwasser, the head of the police division that deals with aliens, said five policemen deal with the issue, but it is not at the top of the police agenda.

She described the possible consequences of the growing numbers of foreign workers and said it could lead to the race problems now being felt in some European countries.



Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Rise in temperatures.

### AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	C	F	sun
Amsterdam	12	54	17	63	cloudy
Berlin	08	48	15	59	cloudy
Buenos Aires	18	64	27	81	clear
Calcutta	23	84	25	77	clear
Chicago	03	37	10	50	rain
Copenhagen	08	46	18	64	cloudy
Helsinki	08	46	18	64	cloudy
Geneva	11	52	15	59	cloudy
Frankfurt	10	50	12	54	cloudy
Hong Kong	25	77	26	79	clear
Lisbon	14	57	14	57	partly cloudy
London	10	50	14	57	partly cloudy
Los Angeles	18	64	23	73	clear
Moscow	08	46	15	59	clear
Mumbai	23	84	25	77	clear
New York	13	55	18	64	cloudy
Paris	10	50	12	54	cloudy
Rome	10	50	12	54	partly cloudy
Stockholm	11	52	15	59	cloudy
Sydney	14	57	21	70	clear
Tokyo	14	57	21	70	cloudy
Zurich	08	46	13	55	rain

### Winning cards

The winning cards in yesterday's Mifal Hapayis Chance game were the queen of spades, nine of hearts, ace of diamonds, and queen of clubs.

# Eitan, Segev indicted for illegal use of IDF information

TSOMET Party leader and Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, former energy minister Gonen Segev and two Tsomet activists, Haggai Ashur and Sami Sbenfeld, were indicted yesterday in Haifa Magistrate's Court for violating the Privacy Protection Law by allegedly using confidential IDF information to threaten an activist to leave the party.

The court decided yesterday that the case will be heard in mid-December by a three-judge panel, given the public stature of the accused.

According to the indictment, after the 1992 Knesset elections, an internal struggle ensued in Tsomet over the appointment of a director of the movement. Segev and Ashur tried to prevent the appointment of Asher Cohen.

As a result, in October 1992, Sbenfeld allegedly obtained Cohen's computerized IDF file while serving in the reserves in the IDF's Haifa office. The prosecution claims he gave the potentially incriminating file to Ashur, and a few days later Segev turned to Ashur and obtained the information, which Segev then presented to Rafael Eitan at a meeting the two held at Eitan's house in Tel Adashim.

According to the indictment, Eitan copied the information, and asked MK Haim Dayan to arrange a meeting with Cohen. At the meeting at Dayan's house, Eitan allegedly confronted Cohen with the information and said that as a former chief of staff "he would not tolerate a deserter in the movement, and therefore he could not be the head of the movement or even a member of it."

Eitan allegedly said that the conversation would be kept between the two of them, and he would not publish the information if Cohen left Tsomet.

As a result, Cohen left his Tsomet membership card with Eitan.

The indictment is unlikely to affect Eitan's ability to serve as a minister since Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair has already said this charge is not serious enough to disqualify him from the cabinet. (Itim)

# Bill would give all Israelis abroad the vote

LIAT COLLINS

MK Ruby Rivlin (Likud) has submitted a bill which would allow Israelis abroad to vote in national elections at embassies and consulates.

"The proposal would neutralize the impact of the wave of hundreds of thousands who leave the country every year and allow all citizens to realize their democratic right, as is accepted practice in many other countries, including the US," Rivlin told reporters yesterday.

He said that every time early elections are called there are intense discussions on which side would win or lose if the voting is held in the summer. "This bill will spare us that," Rivlin said.

Today only diplomatic staff, official emissaries and merchant marines can vote abroad.

"It is of utmost importance that Israel, which is a small democracy where every vote counts, gives as many citizens as possible the option of voting without territorial limitations," Rivlin said.

He rejected criticism that Israelis living abroad for several years should not be able to vote on fateful national issues, saying the aim is to maintain contact with Israelis abroad. Only those who care about the country will vote anyway, he said.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

**Policeman, car thief killed in crash**  
A policeman and a car thief were killed early yesterday morning at the Ma'ul Junction near Migdal Ha'emek. Police said the accident occurred when two men who had stolen a car in Upper Nazareth suddenly swerved into an oncoming police car, killing the policeman. One of the thieves was fatally injured, while the other youth escaped.

Later in the day, a border policeman was seriously hurt when his car overturned at the Ha'Yona Junction in Migdal Ha'emek. He was taken to Ha'emek Hospital in Afula. (Itim)

**Hungarian exhibit opens in Tel Aviv**  
The works of painters Ze'ev and Hedy Kun, Hungarian survivors of the Holocaust, and noted Hungarian sculptor Istvan Madarassy are on display at the Enav Cultural Center in Tel Aviv, in an exhibition opened last night by the municipality and the Hungarian Embassy to mark Hungary's 1100th anniversary.

Zoltan Szabo, Political Secretary of State of Hungary's Ministry of Culture and Education, delivered opening remarks recalling a millennium of Jewish-Hungarian coexistence.

The exhibit, sponsored by Malev Hungarian Airlines and At Yehudit's patisserie, will be on display through Monday. Sue Fishkoff.

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# היכנסו לטובות

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